AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 15. (Canceled).

16.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for forming the intensity profile of a laser beam, comprising:

providing the laser beam so that the laser beam strikes an optically addressable spatial light modulator, the optically addressable spatial light modulator having at least one of a local transmission property and a reflection property depending nonlinearly on a local illumination intensity;

inserting an optical imaging system into an optical path of rays for beam widening, the optically addressable spatial light modulator being located in the optical path of rays.

wherein the at least one of the local transmission property and the reflection property of the optically addressable spatial light modulator has a saturation range, and wherein at least one of a locally transmitted intensity and a reflected intensity of the laser beam in the saturation range is substantially independent of a locally incident intensity of the laser beam outside the saturation range;

wherein the intensity of the laser beam to be formed is adapted to the saturation range of the optically addressable spatial light modulator by at least one of a widening of the laser beam and an optical filter;

~~The method as recited in claim 15,~~ wherein the optical imaging system includes a first telescope imaging system and a second telescope imaging system designed as an at least one of a mechanically adjustable zoom system, an electrically adjustable zoom system, a mechanically controllable zoom system, and an electrically controllable zoom system, the widening of the laser beam being an at least one of variable and adaptable to an intensity change.

Claims 17 to 21. (Canceled)